

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6150
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, TU
SUBJ: GOT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON CONTROL OF POPPY PRODUCTION

REF: A) ANKARA 0169, B) STATE 1149

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT A USEFUL RESPONSE TO TURKISH
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OZAL'S DECEMBER 30 REQUEST (REF A)
FOR USG ADVICE AND INFORMATION ON POPPY PRODUCTION AREA
CONTROL MIGHT BE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. WE CAN EXPLAIN THAT WHILE WE HAVE NO EXPERIENCE WITH
POPPY CULTIVATION, WE DO HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH MEASURES
DESIGNED TO STABILIZE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND PRICES,
INCLUDING ACREAGE CONTROLS. TWO IMPORTANT FACTORS IN THIS
PROCESS HAVE BEEN PRICE AND PRODUCTION GOALS. ON PRICE,
WE THINK GOT MADE A WISE DECISION TO OFFER AN ATTRACTIVE
PRICE TO FARMERS AT THE TIME OF THE INSTITUTION OF THE
STRAW PROCESS AND THE BAN ON INCISION. WITH TWO HARVESTS
OF POPPY STRAW BEHIND US, HOWEVER, AND PROVEN ACCEPTABILITY
TO FARMERS OF THIS METHOD OF HARVESTING AND MARKETING,
THERE SHOULD PERHAPS BE SOME REDUCTION IN REAL PRICES PAID
TO PRESENT PRICES FOR THE NEXT AND SUBSEQUENT HARVEST
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SEASONS RATHER THAN INCREASING THEM ANNUALLY. WE ALSO
THINK THAT TO MAINTAIN EVEN THE PRESENT PRICES TO FARMERS
THE GOT WILL HAVE TO SET A REALISTIC PRODUCTION GOAL AND
SHARE OUT LICENSES TO GROW POPPIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUCH
A GOAL. IT APPEARS THAT WORLD CONSUMPTION OF LICIT NAR-
COTICS HAS NOW REACHED A PLATEAU. PROSPECTS ARE THAT
ANNUAL INCREASE IN DEMAND WILL BE LESS, PERHAPS MUCH

LESS, THAN FIVE PERCENT ANNUALLY OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS AHEAD. (WE COULD SHOW MINISTER THE 1976 INCB REPORT WHICH GIVES SUPPLY AND DEMAND DATA SHOWING THE TREND TOWARD A WORLD OPIATE SURPLUS.) WE WOULD THEN STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT GOT, FOR ITS OWN PROTECTION, RESTRICT ACREAGE TO THAT NECESSARY TO PRODUCE THE 20,000 TONS OF POPPY STRAW ANNUALLY TO OPERATE ITS OWN PROJECTED STRAW EXTRACTION PLANT--THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

B. AN ADDITIONAL INPUT WOULD BE SUGGESTING TO THE MINISTER THAT HE ASK UN HELP IN SPONSORING A STUDY TOUR OF FIVE-SEVEN KEY REGIONAL AND ANKARA GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT WOULD COVER VERIOUS ASPECTS OF PRODUCTION, HANDLING, STORAGE AND PROCESSING BUT WOULD ALSO COVER SUPPLY AND DEMAND. TOUR WOULD INCLUDE, IN ADDITION TO GENEVA, A STRAW PROCESSING COUNTRY SUCH AS THE NETHERLANDS AND A GROWING COUNTRY SUCH AS YUGOSLAVIA. NOTE: AGADVISOR SAMUELSON HAS DISCUSSED THIS WITH UN STAFF IN GENEVA AND GOT MADE A REQUEST FOR SUCH ASSITANCEDURING LAST UN MISSION HERE. UN/GENEVA HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO CONDUCT SUCH A STUDY TOUR.)

2. WE WOULD WELCOME FURTHER SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENT BY INTERESTED USG AGENCIES AS TO OTHER POINTS WHICH COULD BE CSEFULLY MADE TO AGRICULTURE MINISTER. IN MAKING THIS REQUEST TO US WE BELIEVE HE WAS GENUINELY LOOKING FOR ANSWERS AS TO HOW, IN A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, POLITICAL PRESSURES FOR UNWISE COMMODITY PRODUCTION EXPANSION COULD BE HEADED OFF.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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